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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,260	07/06/2001	Toshikazu Higashi	018656-234	3456

7590   10/02/2006

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EXAMINER
LIVERSEDGE, JENNIFER L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3628	

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _07 July 2006_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-8_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-8_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's amendment and request for

reconsideration of application 09/899,260 filed July 7, 2006. The amendment contains

the following:

The amendment contains original claims: 6-7

The amendment contains amended claims: 1--5

The amendment contains new claims: 8

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,295,482 B1 to Tognazzini.

Regarding claim 1, Tognazzini discloses an information processing method

comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, processing data to be information-processed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Making a request to determine whether the received electronic money is valid or not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8, lines 17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14); and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the processing data to be information-processed (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 2, Tognazzini discloses an information processing method comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, a) data to be information-processed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and b) electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Relating the received data to be information-processed with the electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 60-67; column 2, lines 41-46column 7, lines 24-30; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3);

Making a request to determine whether the received electronic money is valid or

not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8, lines

17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14; and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, performing the

processing of the data to be information-processed which is related to the validated

electronic money (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 –

column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 3, Tognazzini discloses an electronic payment method

comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed (column 1, lines

60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and electronic money by which payment for information

processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7

and 12-14);

Associating the data with the electronic money (column 1, lines 60-67; column 2,

lines 41-46column 7, lines 24-30; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3);

Making a request to determine whether the received electronic money is valid or

not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8, lines

17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14); and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, starting the

processing of the data which is associated with the validated electronic money (column

2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7,

12-14).

Regarding claim 4, Tognazzini discloses a system for making payment by

electronic money comprising a user side subsystem including a user's terminal, an

electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing server

and a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a processing

based on processing request data from the user, wherein the user side subsystem, the

electronic money issuer side subsystem and the processor side subsystem are

connected to one another through a network (column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 8;

column 5, line 15 – column 6, line 22),

Wherein the user side subsystem transmits the processing request data and

electronic money data including electronic money issued by the electronic money issuer

side subsystem to the processor side subsystem, the processor side subsystem

transmits the electronic money data to the electronic money issuer side subsystem, the

electronic money issuer side system determines whether the electronic money is valid

or not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8,

lines 17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14), and the

processor side subsystem performs the processing based on the processing request

data in accordance with a result of the electronic money validation and transmits a

request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem

(column 2, lines 42-44; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 26).

Regarding claim 5, Tognazzini discloses an electronic money processor comprising:

Receiving member (column 10, lines 27-39) which receives a) processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20), and b) electronic money data transmitted from the user through the network and including electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored (column 5, lines 34-48; column 7, lines 24-30);

Transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money is valid or not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8, lines 17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14); and

Execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in the memory in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 6, Tognazzini discloses an electronic money processor wherein when the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data including the electronic money (column 8, lines 6-25 and lines 53-61; column 10, lines 27-39).

Regarding claim 7, Tognazzini discloses an image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claim in claim 5, further comprising an image forming portion in which execution of the processing based on the processing request data is controlled by the execution control means of the electronic money processor (column 5, lines 26-34).

Regarding claim 8, Tognazzini discloses an image forming apparatus (column 1, lines 60-67) comprising:

Receiving member which received print data transmitted from a user through a network, and electronic money data corresponding to the print data transmitted from the user through a network and including electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer (column 1, line - column 3, line 23);

Transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money is valid or not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 6, lines 41-45; column 7, lines 26-30; column 8, lines 17-29 and lines 53-58; column 10, lines 27-41; Figures 7, 12-14); and

Image formation portion which processes the print data in accordance with a

result of the check of validity of the electronic money (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3,

lines 12-23; column 6, lines 41-45; column 9, line 53 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-

14).

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that "nothing in Tognazzini shows, teaches or suggests

determining whether the electronic money is valid or not." However, Examiner

specifically points to Tognazzini column 6, lines 42-45; column 8, lines 17-29 and lines

53-58 and column 10, lines 27-41 in which mechanism by which to verify and validate

electronic money are disclosed. Tognazzini specifically states that the electronic money

be validated prior to the release of a hard copy or electronic version of a newspaper,

where he compares the process of validation as being similar to the process by which

credit cards are validated as one method, for example. He also discloses where

limitations and restrictions can be placed on electronic money such that such that the

electronic money needs to be validated to ensure no such restrictions have been placed

on the electronic money being submitted for purchase of the newspaper.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jennifer

Liversedge whose telephone number is 571-272-3167. The examiner can normally be

reached on Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Sam Sough can be reached at 571-272-6799. The fax number for the

organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
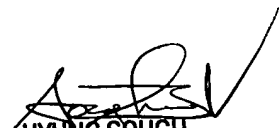
For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jennifer Liversedge

Examiner

Art Unit 3628

HYUNG SOUGH

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600